

**MINUTES OF THE
SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Friday, January 26, 2018 • 7:59 a.m. • 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Rep. Raymond P. Ward, House Vice Chair
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Daniel Hemmert
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Sen. Todd Weiler
Sen. Brian Zehnder
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes

Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. Edward H. Redd
Rep. Norman K. Thurston

Members Absent:

President Wayne L. Niederhauser

Staff Present:

Ms. An Bradshaw, Committee Secretary
Ms. Alysha S. Gardner, Staff Economist
Mr. Russell T. Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Clare Tobin Lence, Fiscal Analyst

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1 . Call to Order

Chair Christensen called the meeting to order at 8:22 a.m.

2 . Department of Workforce Services (DWS) - Base Budget

Ms. Alysha Gardner, Staff Economist, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA), went through the line items of the Department of Workforce Services Budget.

[4a-Workforce Services Caseload Trends](#)

[4b-Workforce Services Facilities](#)

Mr. Jon Pierpont, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services (DWS), discussed lease costs.

Mr. Nathan Harrison, Director of Finance, DWS, introduced himself at the chair's request.

[4c-Workforce Services Fund Balances](#)

Chair Christensen asked for clarification of the Throughput Infrastructure Fund.

Mr. Jonathan Hardy, Director, Housing and Community Development Division, responded to questions.

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell spoke to the issue.

Ms. Gardner resumed her presentation.

Rep. Edward H. Redd asked clarifying questions about the Individuals with Visual Impairment Fund.

Mr. Pierpont responded to the questions.

Ms. Gardner continued her presentation.

[4d-Issue Brief - 2018 General Session - Fees in the Department of Workforce Services](#)

[4e-Issue Brief - 2018 General Session - Federal Funds - Department of Workforce Services](#)

Ms. Gardner explained the Issue Briefs to the committee.

4e-Issue Brief - 2018 General Session - Federal Funds - Department of Workforce Services

Rep. Thurston asked clarifying questions about federal block grants.

Mr. Pierpont answered the questions.

Ms. Gardner explained possible motions to the committee .

Chair Christensen spoke to the issue.

Mr. Pierpont also spoke to the issue.

3 . DWS Administration - Base Budget

[5-Administration Expenditure Details](#)

Ms. Gardner explained the budget and possible motions to the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to approve the following motions from the sheet entitled "Social Services Subcommittee - Motions for Subcommittee Consideration" dated 1/22/2018 10:45 AM: #1C, #1BB, #1AL, #4X, #5AL for the Department of Workforce Services. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4 .

Yeas-12

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. D. Hemmert
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. M. Kennedy
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. W. Niederhauser
Sen. T. Weiler

Sen. K. Van Tassell
Rep. R. Ward
Sen. B. Zehnder

[6-Housing and Community Development Expenditure Details](#)

4 . DWS Housing and Community Development (HCD) - Base Budget

Ms. Gardner presented the DWS Housing and Community Development Base Budget.

Mr. Pierpont explained the budget uses.

Rep. Thurston asked questions about the small amount of expenditures per customer.

Mr. Hardy explained the use of the funds.

Rep. Redd commented on the value of food banks to the community.

Mr. Pierpont added more information about the value of local food pantries.

Chair Christensen added his opinion.

Ms. Gardner continued her presentation.

Mr. Hardy provided additional information about funding.

Rep. Kennedy asked about differences between the Emergency Food Network and the Qualified Emergency Food Agencies Fund.

Mr. Hardy responded.

Chair Christensen asked clarifying questions and Mr. Pierpont and Mr. Hardy responded.

Rep. Van Tassell asked questions about funding through the food sales tax and Mr. Hardy responded.

Ms. Gardner explained potential motions regarding local food agency funding.

Chair Christensen asked questions about potential motions and Mr. Pierpont responded.

Ms. Gardner resumed her presentation.

Rep. Kennedy asked the Chairs about the incentive between lapsing and nonlapsing funding.

Chair Christensen responded.

Rep. Kennedy expressed his concern about funding departments using lapsing funds.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

Rep. Thurston expressed his preference for nonlapsing funds and asked about the expected carry over funds.

Mr. Harrison, Mr. Pierpont, and Mr. Hardy responded.

Rep. Ray told Rep. Thurston his "new guy card" expires today.

Sen. Zehnder asked if there is a time when nonlapsing funds are automatically returned to the state.

Chair Christensen and Mr. Harrison responded.

Ms. Gardner gave further clarification.

5 . DWS Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund - Base Budget

Ms. Gardner explained the Base Budget and budget reduction options to the committee.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

Rep. Edwards explained the intent of the Section 8 Landlord Incentive Program to the committee.

Rep. Ray asked how long the process to reimburse landlords takes. Mr. Hardy responded.

Rep. Ray expressed his support of the program.

Rep. Kennedy asked about what kinds of claims are being made and what are the amounts paid by the program. Mr. Hardy responded.

Rep. Kennedy likes the perception aspect that landlords will be made whole but wonders if we are presuming that Section 8 recipients are trouble.

Mr. Hardy responded.

Rep. Kennedy commented on the amount allocated toward the Section 8 Landlord Incentive Program.

Mr. Pierpont said they were open to looking at funding allocations.

Ms. Gardner clarified that the proposed reduction allows for a growth of three times the current level of data.

Rep. Thurston wondered if landlords should be required to pay for the insurance.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

Mr. Hardy provided further insights.

Rep. Edwards commented on the value of the program.

Ms. Gardner suggested a possible motion for the committee's consideration.

[8-Capital Budget Expenditure Details](#)

Ms. Gardner suggested additional potential motions.

Rep. Chavez- Houck asked for clarification on how performance measure targets are established.

Mr. Hardy explained the housing funds and how they are distributed

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to approve the following motions from the sheet entitled "Social Services Subcommittee - Motions for Subcommittee Consideration" dated 1/22/2018 10:45 AM: #4AG, #4AH, #5AT, #5AW, #5BB, #5BC, #5BE, #5BA, #5AZ for the Department of Workforce Services. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 5 .

Yeas-11

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. D. Hemmert
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston
Sen. K. Van Tassell

Nays-0

Absent-5

Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Rep. M. Kennedy
Sen. W. Niederhauser
Rep. R. Ward

Sen. T. Weiler
Sen. B. Zehnder

6 . Homeless to Housing Reform Restricted Account Report

Mr. Hardy presented the report to the committee.

7 . Review of Medicaid and Tenant Support Services

Ms. Gardner explained the Issue Brief to the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved that the Department of Health, together with the Department of Workforce Services, conduct further research on the costs and benefits of leveraging Medicaid dollars for homeless services, and report to the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee on their findings before October 31, 2018. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4 .

Yeas-12

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. D. Hemmert
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. M. Kennedy
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston
Rep. R. Ward
Sen. T. Weiler
Sen. B. Zehnder

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. W. Niederhauser
Sen. K. Van Tassell

8 . State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) - Base Budget

Ms. Gardner explained the Base Budget to the committee.

Chair Christensen asked Mr. Pierpont what has been the fallout from the transition process of moving USOR to Workforce Services a year ago.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

[11a-USOR Expenditure Details](#)

Ms. Gardner explained the Base Budget and detailed possible motions for the committee to consider.

Rep. Thurston asked Mr. Pierpont to comment on the move and its impact on employees as well as facilities.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

Rep. Chavez-Houck wondered if now was the time to get input from the disabled community.

Chair Christensen asked the public if anyone wanted to comment and no one responded.

9 . General Assistance Base Budget

[12-General Assistance Expenditure Details](#)

Ms. Gardner presented the possible reductions in the budget to the committee.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

Ms. Gardner clarified that there is a potential supplemental motion.

Rep. Thurston asked for clarification about the program.

Mr. Pierpont provided the details of the program.

Rep. Thurston asked about the possibility of taking the funds and putting them through another program that gets a federal match.

Mr. Pierpont said he is not familiar enough with SPD to answer the question.

Sen. Escamilla mentioned that these are two different populations and asked Mr. Pierpont to explain the process of SSI eligibility to the committee.

Mr. Thurston expressed his concerns about the SPD funds.

Chair Christensen made a comment about the balancing act of choosing how to spend funds.

Sen. Escamilla responded.

Chair Christensen thanked Sen. Escamilla for her view.

Ms. Clare Tobin Lence, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, responded and further clarified the differences between the community services.

Rep. Ray asked Mr. Pierpont if there are strings attached when we access federal money. Mr. Pierpont responded.

Chair Christensen asked for clarification about maintenance of effort on General Assistance.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

Ms. Elizabeth Carver, Director, Workforce Program, Policy and Training Division, gave an overview of the process clients go through to apply for General Assistance.

Ms. Gardner explained possible motions to the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Thurston said he would like to add a motion to the motion list. The motion would be to change item #74 on the budget reduction options list entitled "Ongoing Reduction to General Assistance Program" to a one time reduction for Fiscal Year 2018. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3 .

Yeas-13

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hemmert
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. M. Kennedy
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston
Rep. R. Ward
Sen. B. Zehnder

Nays-0

Absent-3

Sen. W. Niederhauser
Sen. K. Van Tassell
Sen. T. Weiler

Ms. Gardner clarified questions about the motion.

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to approve the following motions from the sheet entitled "Social Services Subcommittee - Motions for Subcommittee Consideration" dated 1/22/2018 10:45 AM: #1AL,

#5AS, #5AX, #5AY, #5BG, #4AD for the Department of Workforce Services. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3 .

Yeas-13

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hemmert
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. M. Kennedy
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston
Rep. R. Ward
Sen. B. Zehnder

Nays-0

Absent-3

Sen. W. Niederhauser
Sen. K. Van Tassell
Sen. T. Weiler

10 . Nutrition Assistance/SNAP Base Budget

[13-Nutrition Assistance Expenditure Details](#)

Ms. Gardner explained the Base Budget to the committee and described a potential motion for the committee to consider.

Chair Christensen asked a clarifying question of Mr. Pierpont about the cap on the amount of time a person can receive benefits. Mr. Pierpont responded.

11 . Office of Child Care Base Budget

Ms. Gardner explained the Base Budget and performance measures.

[14-Office of Child Care Expenditure Details](#)

Ms. Gardner presented the expenditures to the committee.

Mr. Pierpont responded.

Chair Christensen explained that the funds could be reused for other purposes

Ms. Tracy Gruber, Director, Office of Childcare, explained how the Intergenerational Poverty School Readiness Scholarship runs.

Rep. Redd asked clarifying questions about the program and outreach efforts.

Ms. Gruber answered and explained outreach efforts.

Chair Christensen asked if it was a 100% scholarship.

Ms. Gruber responded that it was.

Ms. Gardner explained possible motions for the committee to consider.

12 . Unemployment Insurance - Base Budget

Ms. Gardner explained the DWS Unemployment Insurance - Base Budget to the committee

13 . Special Services District - Base Budget

Ms. Gardner explained the budget and possible motions for the committee to consider.

Ms. Gardner mentioned there was a budget reduction option that was not discussed and explained it to the committee.

Mr. Pierpont talked about workforce development being one of the key functions of their department and asked the committee to not reduce these funds.

MOTION: Rep. Ward moved to approve the following motions from the sheet entitled "Social Services Subcommittee - Motions for Subcommittee Consideration" dated 1/22/2018 10:45 AM: #5AP, #4W, #5AV, #5BF, #4AE, #5AR, #5BH, #5AU for the Department of Workforce Services. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3 .

Yeas-13

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hemmert

Nays-0

Absent-3

Sen. W. Niederhauser
Rep. P. Ray
Sen. K. Van Tassell

Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. M. Kennedy
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston
Rep. R. Ward
Sen. T. Weiler
Sen. B. Zehnder

MOTION: Rep. Ward moved to approve the following motions from the Workforce Services Supplemental Motion dated 1/25/2018: #1BA, #5AQ, #5BD for the Department of Workforce Services. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3 .

Yeas-13

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hemmert
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. M. Kennedy
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston
Rep. R. Ward
Sen. T. Weiler
Sen. B. Zehnder

Nays-0

Absent-3

Sen. W. Niederhauser
Rep. P. Ray
Sen. K. Van Tassell

MOTION: Sen. Escamilla moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 3 .

Yeas-13

Rep. R. Chavez-Houck
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. R. Edwards
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hemmert
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. M. Kennedy
Rep. E. Redd
Rep. N. Thurston
Rep. R. Ward

Nays-0

Absent-3

Sen. W. Niederhauser
Rep. P. Ray
Sen. K. Van Tassell

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Sen. T. Weiler

Sen. B. Zehnder

Chair Christensen adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.